



Presented November 4, 2013

## **Town Council Report for October 2013 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)*

- As the weather worsens and school, as well as, other activities draw folks away, our numbers traditionally drop throughout the fall golf season. This October we had two days “shut-down” due to rain and two days we were closed due to temperatures being too cold to support play, at least without risking more damage than would be worth the very limited attendance that might have showed up. In addition we had one day closed for the traditional fall aeration of the greens/turf. This is something done every year that has greatly increased the health of the course.
- Even with about 15% of the month unavailable for play, we generated a decent gross operating profit of ~\$15,604 for this October just past. When looking out over the broader window of our operation, this past month was right in the high-middle of the range generated for October 2009-2013. In terms of gross operating profit, we had two of these previous years that generated between ~\$1,000 to \$3,000 lower; and on a different pair of years, we generated between ~\$1,500 to \$2,200 higher.
- Barring weather issues, the course is planned to remain open for play through Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (just after Thanksgiving).

### *Events/Activities in the Parks*

- Our Zion Nature Center had a variety of activities scheduled this past October including the traditional “Bat Encounters” program. This program is scheduled in Town Hall’s Community Room because past years had taught us its popularity supported a larger room. In addition to that program, there were 6 other programs advertised to the general public in October. Three of these are through an excellent continuing partnership with Zionsville Public Library. Like this past October’s three programs were, these cooperative ventures often have the participants meet at the library for a major portion of the program and then walk over to the Nature Center for a craft, hike, or some additional educational and fun addition.
- Also while sometimes not directly hosted by Park Department itself, there are often public programs we help facilitate and/or where our parks host a component of the event (and sometimes serve as the entire venue). The Sullivan Munce Museum’s annual Ghost walk is an example of one of these types of events, using our Lincoln Park in their production.
- And in addition to various other presentations, the Park Superintendent gave two well-received presentations; One to 20-25 members of the Zionsville Garden Club and one to 15-20 members of the Zionsville Rotary.

### *Other Highlighted Matters*

- The process on the \$32,000 Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant proceeds apace. Recall this is an 80%/20% grant program targeting the preparation of engineering documents and rough cost estimates for some stream bank stabilization sites within Starkey Park. In October we met with some of the DNR grant staff who we toured through the Starkey Park portions of those

potential bank stabilization projects. Then later in the month we hosted several engineering firms in a pre-proposal walkthrough of the property prior to their upcoming submission on that project.

- The Eagle Scout Project at Elm Street Green which will plant a variety of native trees, thereby helping to fulfill the DNR's 2009, pre-construction, recommendations that much of the old, poor and invasive plants be removed and replaced with more suitable species is nearing its November implementation.
- October is our traditional month to begin to prep the parks for winter. This includes winterization of such items as the decorative fountains at Elm Street Green and Lincoln Parks, the traditional October 22 clearing of the garden plots at Heritage Trail Park and Elm Street Green; the winterization of the seasonal restrooms at Mulberry Fields; the blowing of leaves and twigs off the Rail Trail and Turkey Foot Park's pathway (we simply haven't the resources to get to all of the trails about Town); as well as several other similar examples.